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DR. K. B. MENON:—" Sir, are the statistics made available to the public; if it is not made available to the public, will that be made available to the Members of this House? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA:—" It will be considered."

SRI A. GOVINDASAMY NAYAGAR:—" May I know, Sir, what steps Government are taking for the increased catching of fish in order to ease the food situation, and will Government also give statistics to show how many members of the fishermen community are employed in this department? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA:—" Notice, Sir."

Nominations to district boards from Pudukkottai State.

* 203 Q.—SRI R. M. PALANIAPPAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) how many members, if any, have been nominated to the concerned district boards from Pudukkottai State; and

(b) if none, when will the nominations take place?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" (a) No members have been nominated to the Tiruchirappalli District Board to represent the merged area of Pudukkottai.

" (b) The question of nomination is under consideration."

SRI A. RAMASAMY THEVAR:—" May I know whether the Hon. the Chief Minister is aware of the fact that there was wanton delay and the previous Ministry played a dirty trick on the nomination, chiefly to please the Member who is in charge of the Tiruchirappalli District Board? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" The Chief Minister would like to have notice." (Laughter.)

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN:—" Has not the duration of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years been sufficient for our Ministers to confer rights of democracy on the people of Pudukkottai in regard to Tiruchirappalli District Board? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" The Act was published in Part IV-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, only on 27th March 1951. The previous Government thought that there was no urgency; and this Government also thought that the district board elections would be over by October or November, and so it was felt there was no urgency. Now that the district board elections are being postponed, the nominations are under consideration and they will be duly dealt with."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" Sir, the Hon. Minister said that elections to the district boards had been postponed. The

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other day, the Hon. Minister said that they were considering the question of holding elections to the district boards. May I know, Sir, whether the Government have postponed these elections indefinitely and, if not, what is the period for which they have postponed the elections to the district boards?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"Elections to the municipalities and panchayat boards are being conducted; but elections to district boards are postponed for the time being and when to hold the elections to the district boards, is under the consideration of Government."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI:—"Sir, the Hon. Minister in his reply said that the district board elections were being postponed. Will the Hon. Minister consider holding elections immediately for the Tiruchirappalli District Board including the Pudukkottai area as a special case?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"Sir, the elections to all district boards will take place at the same time."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, in view of the fact that several existing Presidents of District Boards are persons who have been defeated in the general elections and have thus been discredited, will the Government consider it their foremost duty to conduct the elections to these district boards as early as possible?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"Sir, I am not aware how many have been defeated, and I require notice."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN:—"Sir, as stated by the Hon. Minister, if there were no reasons of urgency as regards representation, how did reasons of urgency arise for taxation without representation?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"Sir, I do not think any special taxes are levied by district boards. Only some cesses are collected, which are adjusted to the accounts of the district boards."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—"Sir, in view of the reply that the Government are considering the question of nomination as they have decided to postpone elections to the district boards, may I know, Sir, whether it is the practice of the Government to resort to nominations when there is necessity for filling up a certain number of seats and, if not, in the case of the Pudukkottai State, will they cease considering the question of nomination, and immediately order elections for that particular constituency and the Tiruchirappalli District Board inasmuch as the electoral rolls are already there, and recently the general elections have taken place there in respect of the Assembly as well as Parliamentary Constituencies?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"Sir, the allocation of divisions is being done and the suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered."